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January 6, 1988

The Honorable William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

I have learned that [] is retiring this month after 38 years of service with the Federal Government. [] decision to end his long and distinguished career with the Central Intelligence Agency, while understandable, is a blow to those of us in Congress and all Americans who have benefited from his wise counsel and his tireless efforts to get things right. The present ability of our government to understand economic developments in the Soviet Union is a direct result of Mr. [] indefatigable, heroic efforts, and those of the excellent staff of analysts who have worked under him.

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My own experiences with [] work date from the 1960's and early 1970's when I served as Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee. [] designation as Deputy Chief of the Central Intelligence Agency's USSR Branch in 1959 and his promotion to Chief of the Branch in 1961 coincided with a period of intense activity by the JEC in the area of Soviet economics. The Committee's attempts to monitor the Soviet economy were given a major boost by the analysts assembled by [] and by [] himself. For example, among his many writings was an important paper on Soviet agriculture which he contributed to the JEC's 1966 study, New Directions in the Soviet Economy. Needless to say, by that time, [] had become one of the foremost experts on the subject and, largely because of his actions, the CIA had one of the strongest Soviet economic analytical capabilities in the West.

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Hon. William H. Webster
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In 1974, the JEC instituted annual hearings on the Allocation of Resources in the Soviet Union and China. Characteristically, [] accompanied William Colby, Director of Central Intelligence, as one of the Agency's spokespersons in that hearing and he has participated directly or indirectly in all of the subsequent hearings. This series of hearings as well as a number of the Committee's major studies of the Soviet Union have been enhanced greatly by [] contributions and his careful supervision of the work of other CIA analysts. Indeed, his most important legacy may be his commitment to excellence and the high professional standards he helped set for the agency and the entire intelligence community.

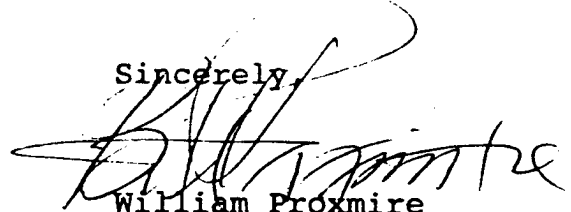
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The U.S. Government can point with pride to the accomplishments of [] and the model of public service that he has provided.

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Sincerely,



William Proxmire
Chairman
Subcommittee on National
Security Economics

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